Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 3 and 13. Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 14, 15, 16 and 17.

The currently pending claims are listed below.

1   1.   (Currently Amended) A method for administering a mental competency test, comprising

2   the steps of:

3   generating a plurality of multiple-choice variant questions, each variant question having

4   multiple variants;

5   defining a plurality of versions of said mental competency test, each version containing a

6   respective unique set of variants of said plurality of variant questions, each version containing no

7   more than one variant of each respective variant question, wherein no two of said respective

8   unique sets of variants are identical, wherein at least some of said variant questions comprise, for

9   each respective variant question, a question portion which is identical in all variants of the

10   respective variant question, and a plurality of answer portions corresponding to respective

11   variants, the answer portions being different for each variant; and

12   administering each of said plurality of versions of said mental competency test to a

13   respective set of one or more test subjects.

1   2.   (Original) The method of administering a mental competency test of claim 1, further

2   comprising the steps of:

3   receiving test responses from a plurality of test subjects; and

4   analyzing said test responses to detect a pattern of probable unauthorized access to a

5   version of said mental competency test different from the version to which the test responses

6   pertain.

      3.   (Cancelled)

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1   4.   (Currently Amended)   The method of administering a mental competency test of ~~claim 3~~

2   <u>claim 1</u>, wherein each of said plurality of answer portions for a respective variant question

3   contains an incorrect answer which is confusingly similar to a correct answer contained in a

4   different one of said plurality of answer portions.

1   5.   (Currently Amended)   The method of administering a mental competency test of ~~claim 3~~

2   <u>claim 1</u>, wherein each of said plurality of answer portions for a respective variant question

3   contains a different correct answer and a set of incorrect answers, the set of incorrect answers

4   being the same for all variants of the respective variant question.

1   6.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The~~ <u>A</u> method of administering a mental competency test ~~of claim~~

2   ~~1~~, <u>comprising the steps of:</u>

3   <u>generating a plurality of multiple-choice variant questions, each variant question having</u>

4   <u>multiple variants;</u>

5   <u>defining a plurality of versions of said mental competency test, each version containing a</u>

6   <u>respective unique set of variants of said plurality of variant questions, each version containing no</u>

7   <u>more than one variant of each respective variant question, wherein no two of said respective</u>

8   <u>unique sets of variants are identical,</u> wherein at least some of said variant questions comprise, for

9   each respective variant question, a plurality of question portions corresponding to respective

10   variants, the question portions being different for each variant, and a common answer portion,

11   wherein the correct answer is different for each variant<u>; and</u>

12   <u>administering each of said plurality of versions of said mental competency test to a</u>

13   <u>respective set of one or more test subjects.</u>

1   7.   (Original)   The method of administering a mental competency test of claim 1, wherein said

2   step of administering each of said plurality of versions of said mental competency test to a

3   respective set of one or more test subjects comprises administering said test to at least some of

4   said test subjects using an interactive computer terminal.

1   8.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The~~ A method of administering a mental competency test ~~of claim~~

2   ~~7~~, comprising the steps of:

3   generating a plurality of multiple-choice variant questions, each variant question having

4   multiple variants;

5   defining a plurality of versions of said mental competency test, each version containing a

6   respective unique set of variants of said plurality of variant questions, each version containing no

7   more than one variant of each respective variant question, wherein no two of said respective

8   unique sets of variants are identical; and

9   administering each of said plurality of versions of said mental competency test to a

10   respective set of one or more test subjects, wherein said step of administering each of said

11   plurality of versions of said mental competency test to a respective set of one or more test subjects

12   comprises administering said test to at least some of said test subjects using an interactive

13   computer terminal, wherein said step of administering said test comprises adaptively

14   administering said test on an interactive computer terminal while monitoring responses of each

15   test subject for a pattern of probable unauthorized access to a version of said mental competency

16   test different from the version being administered to the test subject, and interrogating the subject

17   with at least one reserve variant question if the monitoring step detects said pattern of probable

18   unauthorized access.

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1   9.   (Original)   The method of administering a mental competency test of claim 1, wherein said

2   step of defining a plurality of versions comprises automatically selecting each respective unique

3   set of variants of said plurality of variant questions, said automatically selecting step being

4   performed by a digital computing device.

1   10.   (Original)   The method of administering a mental competency test of claim 1, further

2   comprising the steps of:

3   defining a plurality of discrete subsets of said plurality of variant questions, each said

4   discrete subset containing an identical number of said variant questions, said identical number

5   being greater than 1; and

6   defining, for each respective subset of said plurality of discrete subsets of said plurality of

7   variant questions, a corresponding plurality of discrete subsets of variants, each discrete subset of

8   variants containing one variant of each respective variant question of the respective discrete

9   subset of said plurality of variant questions;

10   wherein said step of defining a plurality of versions of said mental competency test

11   comprises defining, for each respective version, a corresponding unique set of said discrete

12   subsets of variants.

1   11.   (Currently Amended)   A mental competency test administration apparatus embodied in

2   one or more digital data processing systems, comprising:

3   a data storage containing a plurality of versions of said mental competency test, each

4   version containing a respective unique set of variants of a plurality of multiple-choice variant

5   questions, each variant question having multiple variants, each version containing no more than

6   one variant of each respective variant question, wherein no two of said respective unique sets of

7   variants are identical, wherein at least some of said variant questions comprise, for each

8   respective variant question, a question portion which is identical in all variants of the respective

9   variant question, and a plurality of answer portions corresponding to respective variants, the

10   answer portions being different for each variant; and

11   a suspicious pattern analyzer which analyzes responses to said mental competency tests

12   from a plurality of test subjects to detect patterns of probable unauthorized access to a version of

13   said mental competency test different from the version to which the test subject responds.

1   12.   (Original)   The mental competency test administration apparatus of claim 11, wherein said

2   data storage contains a first database of said multiple-choice variant questions, and a second

3   database of versions, said second database identifying, for each respective version, the

4   corresponding unique set of variants contained in the respective version.

1   13.   (Cancelled)   The mental competency test administration apparatus of claim 11, wherein at

2   least some of said variant questions comprise, for each respective variant question, a question

3   portion which is identical in all variants of the respective variant question, and a plurality of

4   answer portions corresponding to respective variants, the answer portions being different for each

5   variant.

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1   14.   (Currently Amended)   The mental competency test administration apparatus of ~~claim 13~~

2   claim 11, wherein each of said plurality of answer portions for a respective variant question

3   contains an incorrect answer which is confusingly similar to a correct answer contained in a

4   different one of said plurality of answer portions.

1   15.   (Currently Amended)   The mental competency test administration apparatus of ~~claim 13~~

2   claim 11, wherein each of said plurality of answer portions for a respective variant question

3   contains a different correct answer and a set of incorrect answers, the set of incorrect answers

4   being the same for all variants of the respective variant question.

1   16.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The~~ A mental competency test administration apparatus embodied

2   in one or more digital data processing systems ~~of claim 11~~, comprising:

3   a data storage containing a plurality of versions of said mental competency test, each

4   version containing a respective unique set of variants of a plurality of multiple-choice variant

5   questions, each variant question having multiple variants, each version containing no more than

6   one variant of each respective variant question, wherein no two of said respective unique sets of

7   variants are identical, wherein at least some of said variant questions comprise, for each

8   respective variant question, a plurality of question portions corresponding to respective variants,

9   the question portions being different for each variant, and a common answer portion, wherein the

10   correct answer is different for each variant; and

11   a suspicious pattern analyzer which analyzes responses to said mental competency tests

12   from a plurality of test subjects to detect patterns of probable unauthorized access to a version of

13   said mental competency test different from the version to which the test subject responds.

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1   17.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The~~ A mental competency test administration apparatus <u>embodied</u>

2   <u>in one or more digital data processing systems</u> ~~of claim 11~~, <u>comprising:</u>

3   <u>a data storage containing a plurality of versions of said mental competency test, each</u>

4   <u>version containing a respective unique set of variants of a plurality of multiple-choice variant</u>

5   <u>questions, each variant question having multiple variants, each version containing no more than</u>

6   <u>one variant of each respective variant question, wherein no two of said respective unique sets of</u>

7   <u>variants are identical,</u> wherein:

8   said data storage contains a plurality of discrete subsets of said plurality of variant

9   questions, each said discrete subset containing an identical number of said variant

10   questions, said identical number being greater than 1;

11   said data storage further contains, for each respective subset of said plurality of

12   discrete subsets of said plurality of variant questions, a corresponding plurality of discrete

13   subsets of variants, each discrete subset of variants containing one variant of each

14   respective variant question of the respective discrete subset of said plurality of variant

15   questions; and

16   each version of said plurality of versions of said mental competency test comprises a

17   corresponding unique set of said discrete subsets of variants<u>; and</u>

18   <u>a suspicious pattern analyzer which analyzes responses to said mental competency tests</u>

19   <u>from a plurality of test subjects to detect patterns of probable unauthorized access to a version of</u>

20   <u>said mental competency test different from the version to which the test subject responds.</u>